

Groundwater Management Challenges

An Environmental Justice Perspective

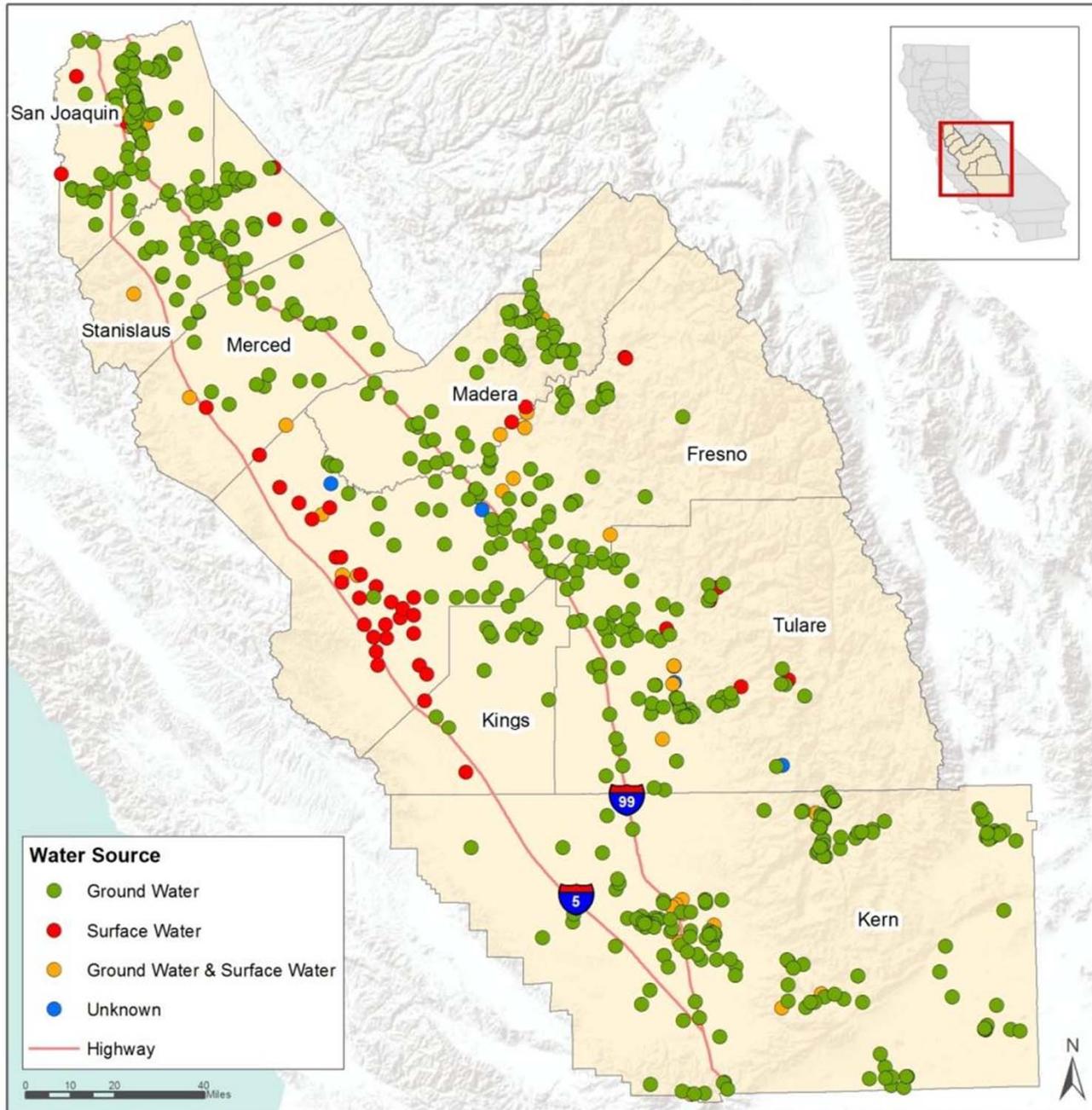
Laurel Firestone, Co-Executive Director,
Community Water Center



Ensuring all Californian's have safe, affordable drinking water

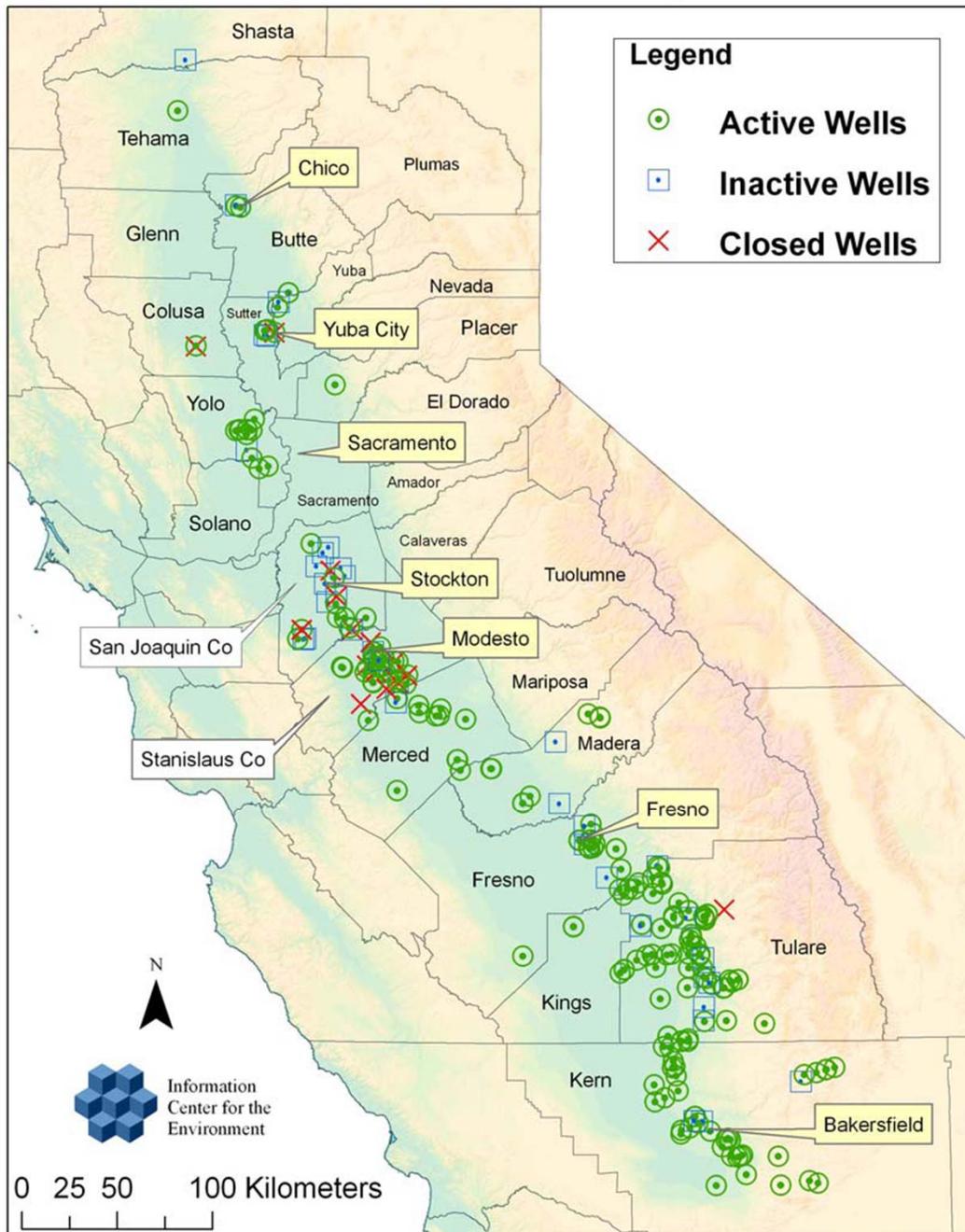


Water Source for Active Community Water Systems, 2007



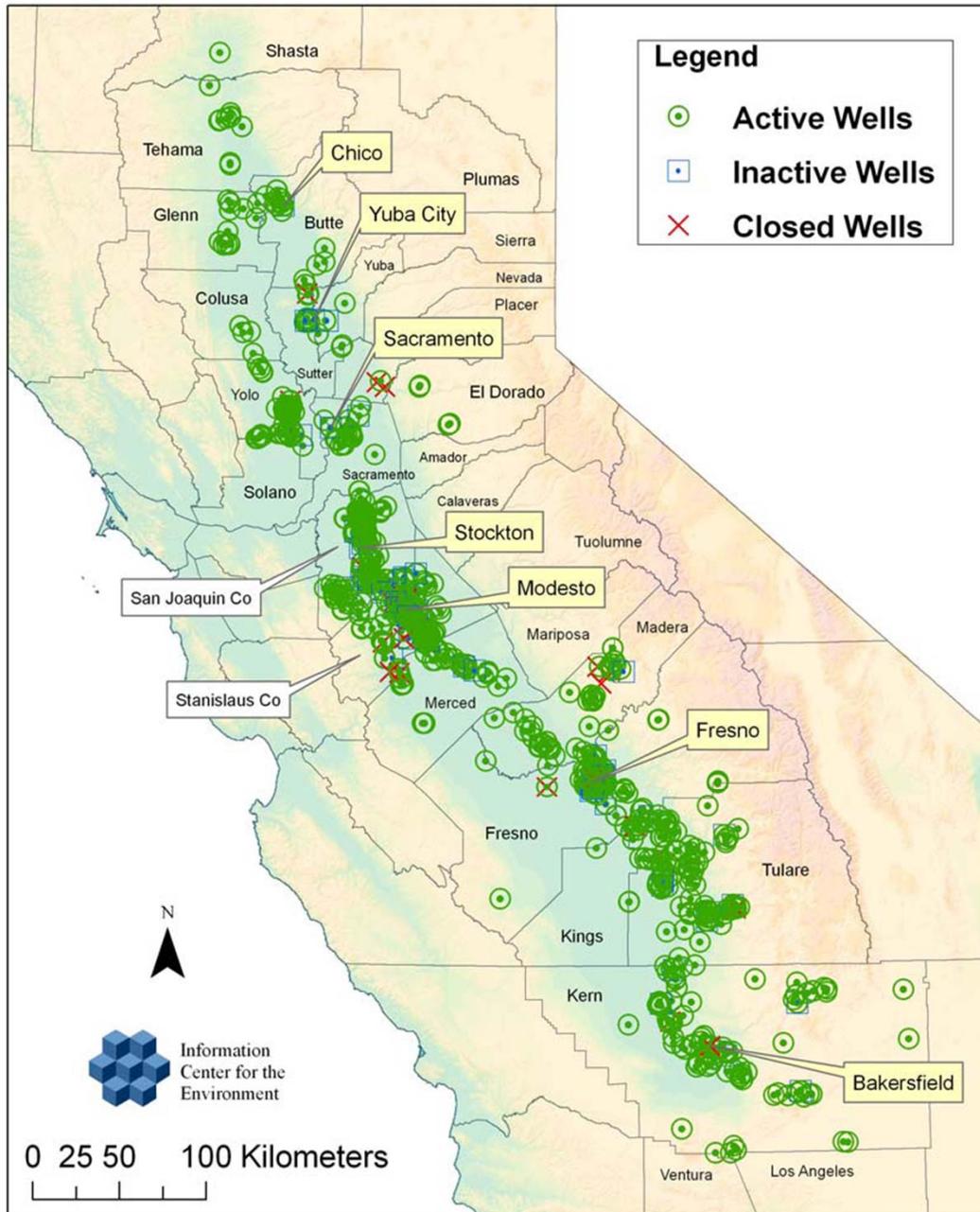
>90% of valley communities rely on groundwater.

Wells with Nitrates Exceeding MCL



Many
drinking
water
supplies are
already
contaminated

Wells with Nitrates at 50% of MCL

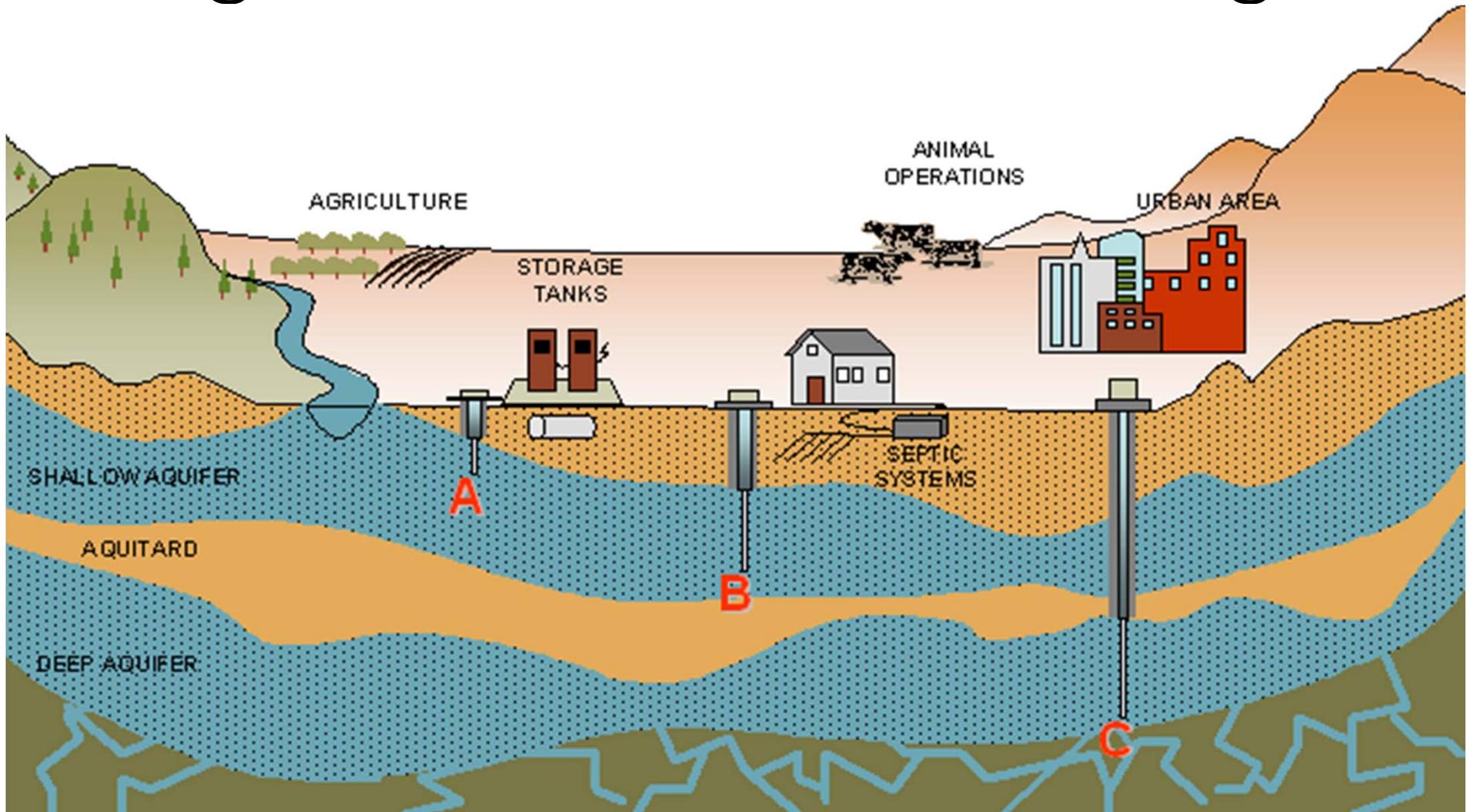


Many more are
at risk of
becoming
contaminated

Challenge 1: Inadequate Groundwater Quality Protection



Challenge 2: Inadequate groundwater monitoring



Challenge 3: Existing groundwater data sources must be integrated and more accessible

The screenshot shows the homepage of the GeoTracker GAMA website. At the top, it features the logo for the State Water Resources Control Board and the text "GEOTRACKER GAMA GROUNDWATER AMBIENT MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT". Below the logo are navigation links for "GeoTracker GAMA Home", "GAMA Home", "SWRCB Home", and "GAMA Tutorial". A main heading reads "Welcome to GeoTracker GAMA" followed by a brief description: "GeoTracker GAMA (Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment) is an online database using Google Maps that:". A bulleted list highlights key features: making groundwater quality databases searchable, providing links to other groundwater quality data, and bringing together standardized datasets from various California state agencies and the US Geological Survey. A search box titled "MAP WATER QUALITY INFORMATION" is present, with a placeholder text "Enter an address to display water quality information on a map." and a "Search" button. The footer includes "Copyright © 2009 State of California".

This screenshot displays the interactive map interface of GeoTracker GAMA. The map shows a region of California with various monitoring wells marked by different symbols. A legend on the left side of the map explains the symbols: square icons for one or more CDM wells, circle icons for other water supplies, triangle icons for environmental monitoring wells, and icons with a circle or dotted line for well clusters. A red arrow points to the legend. Below the map, there are several control panels. The "LOCAL INFORMATION" panel shows the current location as "SAN JOAQUIN - EASTERN SAN JOAQUIN (5-22 31)". The "LEGEND" panel is expanded. The "SHOW ADVANCED QUERY OPTIONS" panel includes filters for "WATER DEPTH QUERY" (set to 643-632) and "SHOW WATCHING WELLS (5 BPL ABOVE DRINKING WATER STANDARD)". The "FILTERS - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION" panel has checkboxes for "Water Supply Wells (CDPH)", "Water Supply Wells (Other)", and "Environmental Monitoring (Other)". The "Query With Results" panel shows a search for "Perchlorate - (M), < 5 UGA" in the "San Joaquin Valley" region, with results for "221 WELL CLUSTER - EDF" (17000) and "11 WELL CLUSTER - EDF" (872). A table at the bottom lists the "LOCATIONS FOUND" and their "MAX VALUE".

<http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/gama/>

Challenge 4: Gaps in Enforcement & Clean Up



Communities Pay the Costs



- Health
- Social
- Financial

Call to Action



Thank you

www.communitywatercenter.org

